

Nietzsche's "Antichrist" Proves, on Reading, To Be Anti-Paul

A Rebel's Outburst Nietzsche's Lifelong Antipathy to Christianity Concentrated in "The Antichrist"

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE is one of the most discussed and most misunderstood philosophical thinkers of all time. Possessed of an extraordinarily complex and finely wrought intellect and of a remarkable faculty for literary expression, his work is characterized by the double subtlety of the seer and of the poet. To understand him even measurably well is an achievement of no little distinction. It requires charity and broad knowledge and freedom from prejudice.

Unfortunately most of Nietzsche's critics have been neither charitable nor learned, nor free from prejudice. Unlike most philosophers, Nietzsche had a habit of expressing provocative ideas in a provocative manner. As a result his works have attracted a great deal of unintelligent praise and a great deal of ignorant and malignant misadversion. One of the most widespread misconceptions about the trend and significance of Nietzsche's thought is amusingly illustrated by the following anecdote told by Mr. H. L. Mencken in his introduction to a new edition of "The Antichrist" (Knopf):

"On the strength of the fact that I had published a book on Nietzsche in 1906, six years after his death, I was called upon by agents of the Department of Justice, elaborately outfitted with badges, to meet the charge that I was an intimate associate and agent of 'the German monster, Nietzsche.' I quote the official process verbal, an indignant, but often misspelled, document."

Probably most educated Americans, unlike the Department of Justice, know that Nietzsche has been dead for some twenty years and know how to spell his name. But many people who ought to know better still insist, perhaps for the sake of euphony, on grouping him with the two conventional apostles of Prussian militarism, Treitschke and Bernhardi. Now, it is doubtful whether a man ever lived more devoid of nationalist feeling than Friedrich Nietzsche. Far from being proud of his German origin, he did his best, in spite of the genealogical records, to prove himself a Pole. He lived most of his life in Switzerland and Italy. He never for a moment shared the delusion that the modern Germans were a superior race, fitted to conquer and dominate the world. On the contrary, his writings abound in bitter strictures against German stupidity, and he delighted in drawing contrasts between German and French culture, much to the disadvantage of the former. His infrequent references to his supposed colleague, Treitschke, are couched in anything but complimentary language. From the viewpoint of Anglo-Saxon morality Nietzsche has enough sins to answer for without loading him down with an association with Prussian militarism, which he would be the first to repudiate.

Not Wholly Greek
Mr. Mencken describes Nietzsche as "Greek born two thousand years too late." This is true, but it is not the whole truth. The Greek element in Nietzsche was very strong, and accounts for his hearty contempt for such Christian doctrines as sin, redemption and the purification of the soul through the mortification of the body. Among the civilized races of antiquity the Greeks were perhaps the most intellectual, the least spiritual, the least inclined to console themselves for the misfortunes of this life by conjuring up visions of other worldly bliss.

But no Greek of the fifth century B. C. would have been likely to display Nietzsche's fanatical intensity in attacking religion. By a curious paradox the philosopher's long line of pious ancestors (his forefathers for several generations were Lutheran pastors) may fairly be held responsible for his most violent diatribes against Christianity. Take the sentences of wild denunciation that appear near the end of "The Antichrist":

"I condemn Christianity; I bring against the Christian Church the most terrible of all the accusations that an accuser has ever had in his mouth. It is, to me, the greatest of all imaginable corruptions; it seeks to work the ultimate corruption, the worst possible corruption. The Christian Church has left nothing untouched by its depravity; it has turned every value into worthlessness, and every truth into a lie, and every integrity into baseness of soul."

This is not the language of a convinced skeptic, but of a perverted evangelist, turning the batteries of his moral earnestness against something which he believes to be false. Despite all his expressed contempt for Christian asceticism, Nietzsche, in his own way, is a good deal of an ascetic himself, a St. Simon Stylites of himself. He is never more sincere, more impassioned than when he is setting forth the dangers and hardships of the intellectual life. So, denouncing faith as an easy means of evading the responsibilities of intellectual integrity, he says:

Faith Denounced.
"Man has had to fight for every atom of the truth, and has had to pay for it almost everything that the heart, that human love, that human trust cling to. Greatness of soul is needed for this business; the service of what is the hardest of all services. What, then, is the meaning of integrity in things intellectual? It means that a man must be severe with his own heart, that he must scorn beautiful feelings, and that he makes every Yea and Nay a matter of conscience! Faith makes blessed; therefore it lies."

Despite its title "The Antichrist" is not so much anti-Christ as anti-Paul. Nietzsche maintains the theory that the original teachings of Jesus, teachings of quietism and spiritual anarchism, were perverted by Paul into a

creed of hatred and revenge, a creed that spitefully disparaged health and joy and exalted sickness and sorrow. To him Paul is the incarnation of priestcraft; and he lavishes upon him every abusive epithet in his vocabulary. Except for the last few pages the book shows little evidence of any mental strain or weakness, although it was written only a short time before the author's tragic mental break-down. As always Nietzsche writes bitterly, vehemently, passionately; but his analysis of the spiritual origin of Christianity, although envenomed with hostile prejudice, is supported by sound historical and philosophical scholarship. The charm of the author's style, its combined flexibility and vigor, is admirably preserved in Mr. Mencken's translation.

It is difficult to contemplate Nietzsche, always tortured but never broken by the twin devils of sickness and loneliness, and always pursuing his ideals at whatever cost of spiritual suffering, without conceiving a measure of sympathy and admiration for the man, however much one may disagree with or condemn his views. And it seems appropriate that "The Antichrist," one of his last rebellious outbursts, should be written without a trace of weakening or compromise. The sword of his keen and powerful intellect was soon to be irretrievably broken; but to the very end he kept his hand on its hilt and his face toward the enemy.

Insurgent Corea
A Nation's Soul Aroused by Oppression
F. A. MACKENZIE tells vividly and eloquently the romantic and tragic history of Corea in his book "Korea's Fight for Freedom" (Revell). The annals of a happy people are said to be a blank, and those of Corea until forty years ago were singularly so. But her past forty years are crowded with events, and of some of these Mackenzie writes as an eyewitness.

In the story are jumbled amazingly the ancient East and the modern West—conspiracies in courts, assassinations at banquets, an emperor murdered in his seraglio, an emperor broken to modern statecraft, a people bewilderingly forced to bridge the world of two thousand years ago with this modern one—and the steady, cold encroachment of an ancient enemy suddenly grown powerful.

Placed as a buffer state between China and Japan for untold centuries, the covetous eyes of both were upon her. It was a peril which finally became a security, and ironically it remained for a party of patriots, liberals revolting from the despotism of the emperor, to break the deadlock which had been Corea's preservation.

Western civilization stood knocking at the door in the '30s, and the younger, romantic, adventurous men of Corea rebelled at the proscriptions and exclusions with which the Emperor fanatically sought to avert it. The Emperor's intense conservatism was due to the influence of the Empress, a woman of remarkable will and energy, and the Chinese party, which she favored. The radicals hotly called on Japan for assistance in their rebellion. Coming as a savior, Japan stayed as a conqueror.

The story of the debasement and exploitation which followed is familiar enough by now. Even a cynical Western world has been faintly stirred to indignation at the tales of torture and enslavement, of terrorism and ruin which missionaries have brought out of Corea.

But the amazing and dramatic thing, the thing above all things worth chronicling, which Mr. Mackenzie sets down with a real perception, is that in this defeat the Korean people, seemingly a spiritless folk, have found a national soul which they themselves were not aware of possessing. The passivity, the timidity, the obedience have been pierced through by their suffering and a bedrock of national character has been touched. It has revealed in them an austerity, a flaming idealism, something unbreakable of spirit.

"An interesting novel, vivid, careful, well written," says the N. Y. Times of

MR. WU
By LOUISE JORDAN MILN
and adds, "It shows an exceptional degree of acquaintance on the part of the author with the manners, customs and ideas of China." Much picturesque and fascinating detail. Well done and convincing. If you like thrilling mystery read this intensely interesting novel of a wealthy Chinese Mandarin and a brave American woman. Net, \$1.75

DIANA OF THE EPHESIANS
By Mrs. DESMOND HUMPHREYS
("RITA")
A modern story of a woman's passionate struggle for fame and position, taking for heroine a well-known nameless Greek girl who bursts like a human meteor on London society. The story of her spectacular career is honestly interesting from first page to last. Net, \$1.75
STOKES, Publisher



ANSON NORTH'S "The Forging of the Pikes," published by George H. Doran & Co., is a story of the Great North Woods

Love and War Men and Women

A Romance of the Canadian Rebellion
Irvin Cobb and Mrs. Rinehart Cross Swords

OLD-FASHIONED romance with a spice of martial adventure is the recipe employed by Anson North in his novel, "The Forging of the Pikes" (Doran). In the first chapter Alan, a Canadian farmer lad, is very much attracted by Barry, a wild, beautiful girl, who loves to dress in Indian fashion. In the last chapter he carries her away his bride in a canoe.

In the meantime many things happen. Barry succumbs to the fascination of a stranger, and is lured away to follow him by a marriage of dubious validity. Alan, in the intervals of his love and disappointment, finds time to take part in the rebellion initiated by the "plain people" of Canada against the domination of the British Governor and the Toronto financiers. The rebellion turns out a fiasco and Alan finds himself in jail, with the prospect of a long prison sentence hanging over him.

But here the author assumes the rôle of a good fairy. Alan is extricated from his legal difficulties; Barry, her questionable husband having conveniently died, returns; and the story comes to its inevitable conclusion. Alan, in his diary, is the supposed narrator of the tale, and the style of an earlier generation is preserved by inserting frequent "alibets" and occasional wholesome moral reflections.

Prefacing the book with the quotation, "For there are two sides to almost every story," the author conscientiously attempts to be fair to rebels and loyalists alike.

Beyond the Horizon by EUGENE O'NEILL Author of "The Moon of the Caribbees"

A book by the author of one of the most noteworthy Broadway successes of many seasons.
"Absorbing, significant, and memorable. Seldom has an American play been written for the theatre a piece half so good and true."—New York Times.
\$1.50 BONI & LIVERIGHT, New York.

By the Famous Author of "A Student in Arms" of which over 200,000 have been sold in America

LETTERS OF DONALD HANKEY

With Introduction and Notes By EDWARD MILLER, M. A.
A volume of personal letters, possessing an interest difficult to over-estimate. Intimate, human, appealing. They cover Hankey's college days; the periods spent in foreign travel; the years in Australia, and the fateful months he spent in France as one of the Immortal "First Hundred Thousand," and where he made the supreme sacrifice. \$2.50 net.

At All Bookellers. Fleming H. Revell Company, Publishers.
New York: 158 Fifth Ave. Chicago: 17 No. Wabash Ave.

SIT down in your easy chair after dinner, light your old Jimmy Pipe, and enjoy the most perfect, the most thrilling movie you ever saw.

THE SECRET OF SAREK

by Maurice Leblanc
is a new ARSENE LUPIN book, but as you read you forget that it is a book. The story moves with lightning speed. The characters and incidents picture themselves on the film of your mind, and you plunge from thrill to suspense through every page. Your pipe may go out, you never refill it—until you finish the book. \$1.75 net.

The Macaulay Company
Publishers
New York



More Tales of Chekhov Russian Life Faithfully Pictured in Volume of Short Stories

OF ALL the Russian writers Anton Chekhov is perhaps the most realistic, using the word in its humblest and more literal sense. He does not possess the romanticism of Tolstoy, or the spiritual psychopathism of Dostoevsky. His scientific training (throughout most of his life he was a practicing physician) made him an exceptionally careful and faithful observer of the prosaic facts of life. It is perhaps fortunate that the work of Chekhov, through Constance Garnett's translations, is becoming increasingly familiar to American readers. For he is perhaps as well qualified as any one to dispel the illusion that Russia is a country inhabited only by saints, criminals and madmen, a manufactory of psychical and political revolutions.

The latest volume of Chekhov, translated under the title "The Chorus Girl and Other Stories" (Macmillan), includes one fairly long story, "My Life," and a number of shorter sketches. "My Life" is the autobiography of a rather uncommon type of individual; a man who honestly prefers hard manual labor to easier and more dignified occupations. The hero expresses his simple communistic ideal in the following passage:

"What is wanted is that the strong should not enslave the weak, that the minority should not be a parasite on the majority, nor a vampire forever sucking its vital sap; that is, all, without exception, strong and weak, rich and poor, should take part equally in the struggle for existence, each one on his own account, and there is no better means for equalizing things in that way than manual labor, in the form of universal service, compulsory for all."

By putting his idea into practice and going out to work as a house painter he grieves his sister, enrages his father and earns the sneers of his petty-minded neighbors. He meets a girl who is attracted by his independent mode of life; they are married, but the glamour of their love soon wears off, and they part, never to meet again. The atmosphere of the small town in which the scene of the story is laid is interpreted with keen and pitiless fidelity. Gossip and slander and all uncharitableness

are rife; there is an utter lack of broad and generous thought and vision. The merit of the remaining stories is somewhat uneven. Chekhov, as he sometimes complains in his autobiography, was often compelled by his financial necessities to write more hastily than he liked, and some of his work seems to have been written for an insistent publisher rather than for posterity. Yet his tales are seldom dull, even if they are sometimes inconsequential. "On the Road" is a romantic idyll worthy of Tolstoy. "The Chorus Girl" and "Bad Weather" are two brief sketches in which a comical twist is given to a gentleman's amorous entanglements.

"Rothschild's Fiddle" is the story of a village coffin maker. Had Chekhov been acquainted with the writings of Dr. Berthold A. Baer, philosopher of optimism and stanch panegyrist of the glories of the Campbell Funeral Church, Broadway at Sixty-sixth Street, he might have enriched this tale with some appropriate reflections on the manifold consolations of a coffin maker. As it is, it makes rather grim reading, with a note of pathos at the end.

Lovers of Dickens should thoroughly enjoy Chekhov, even if the Russian author's work is placed in a less familiar setting. The spiritual affinity between the two men is quite strongly marked. Both hate cruelty and injustice; both, without subscribing to any abstract cult of humanity worship, sincerely love and are interested in human beings. Neither Dickens nor Chekhov possesses a profound psychological instinct; but both, by means of a lively imagination and an observant sense for details, have created work that is true and appealing and enduring. A single volume of Chekhov's tales will do more to introduce the American reader to the Russian people than a dozen books of excited political propaganda.

"A Christmas Garland"
E. P. Dutton & Co. will have ready next week another edition of Max Beerbohm's "A Christmas Garland," which might well be used by English professors for collateral reading in their courses on the subject of English style.

THE LIFE OF GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH

By HAROLD BEGIBIE
Here is the authorized biography of the founder of the Salvation Army—the story of one of the most remarkable careers in all history. The author had access to all of General Booth's private papers and correspondence and was given the full co-operation of the Booth family in the preparation of this complete account of his life and work. Written with much sympathetic understanding and literary distinction, this authentic portrayal of one of the greatest spiritual leaders the world has ever known is the most interesting and impressive biography published in many years. In two volumes. With 30 full page photographs. The set, \$10.50.

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY, Publishers, NEW YORK

The Century of Hope A Sketch of Western Progress from 1815 to the Great War By F. S. MARVIN. Net \$3.00 A masterly summary of the varied and astonishing progress in every branch of knowledge—scientific, political and social—made during the hundred years preceding the Great War. In Mr. Marvin's discerning generalizations the thoughtful reader will find much to hold fast to in these days of unrest.

The Mechanism of Exchange A Handbook of Currency, Banking and Trade in Peace and War By J. A. TODD. Net \$3.75 This book can be profitably studied by everyone who has to do with either sale or purchase of foreign goods. The factors which control foreign exchanges are clearly explained and enable the business man to carefully judge the direction and extent of his trend.

At all bookellers or from the publishers
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
American Branch
35 West 32nd Street
New York, City

TWO GOOD MYSTERY STORIES JUST PUBLISHED

THE CHINESE LABEL

By J. FRANK DAVIS
A Secret Service story of an attempt to smuggle into America two famous diamonds stolen from the Sultan's sash and concealed in an opium can bearing a Chinese label. Among those implicated are Chinese, Mexicans, a retired American army officer, and an international spy. This is a mystery story of the unsensational and altogether plausible sort—its methods being those of subtlety and finesse, rather than coercion or force.

Illustrated by Ralph P. Coleman. \$1.75 net.

THE LA CHANCE MINE MYSTERY

By S. CARLETON
For plot and action, for tenseness of interest and thrilling crisis, "The La Chance Mine Mystery" is not easily equalled, while its love story, in its setting of frozen Canadian forests with their howling wolf-packs, is sweet and tender. Altogether it is a most satisfying mystery story of the great out-of-doors.

Frontispiece by George W. Gage. \$1.75 net.

LITTLE, BROWN & COMPANY, Publishers BOSTON

A Book of Ghosts Harrowing Tales of Psychic Experiences

APPARITIONS of all kinds squeak and gibber through the pages of Violet Tweedale's book, "Ghosts I Have Seen" (Stokes). The author acquired the habit of "seeing things" when she was very young and continued to experience supernatural visitations throughout her life. After encountering disembodied souls, wraiths of suicides and murdered persons, grotesque creatures which could not be identified with any scientific species, together with innumerable piercing shrieks and other unaccountable noises, the author seems to have become hardened to contacts with the spirit world. She declares that she would quite readily live in a room inhabited by a ghost, provided that the latter did not resent her intrusion and make himself a nuisance.

Auras are ordinarily associated with pictures of saints and angels, but the author insists that practically every human being has some such astral emanation hovering about his head, and professes herself adept in perceiving them and interpreting their significance. For the possible benefit of those whose powers of perception exceed their faculties of interpretation

PRACTICAL EXPORTING
By B. Olney Hough—Author of "Elementary Lessons in Exporting" and "Ocean Traffic and Trade," Editor—"American Exporter."
An invaluable book on how to export—for the manufacturer, exporter and student.
THE ONLY COMPLETE WORK ON THIS VITAL SUBJECT
Price \$5.00—Sent on approval if you will clip this advertisement and write your name and address in margin.
AMERICAN EXPORTER
17 Battery Place New York

ELLIS PARKER BUTLER

"Me and Swatty was cow cousins," says the young narrator of this story of boy life on the Mississippi.
"We was both raised on the milk of the same cow." And his account of their exploits and adventures is a masterpiece of fun that will recall the pranks of Tom Sawyer.
of PIGS IS PIGS fame has written a rollicking story of real boys entitled
Written with humor and gusto and an amazing knack of seeing things from the boys' point of view. "Swatty" is a book that will be enjoyed from the first page to the last by every one who has the heart of a boy—whether his age is nine or ninety.

SWATTY

Illustr. \$1.50 net. HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY 16 E. 40th St. New York

Highly Important DORAN BOOKS Just Published

CARDINAL MERCIER'S OWN STORY

The passionately moving record of the greatest struggle between spiritual power and brute force the world has ever seen. "My war experiences in their most tense and vivid reality; all the issues I fought with the occupying power, their methods and mine clearly defined, undeniably fixed in black and white."—Cardinal Mercier. Preface by Cardinal Gibbons. New Portrait frontispiece. 8vo. Net, \$4.00

LEONARD WOOD: Conservator of Americanism

A Biography, by Eric Fisher Wood
Wood's career is here recorded for the first time. A fascinating and inspiring story of a life of constructive work, true to the best traditions of America. Net, \$2.00

By Admiral Lord Fisher MEMORIES AND RECORDS

The raciest and most unconventional memoirs published in many years. England is agog over these revelations of the Admiral who built up the modern British Navy and checkmated the Germans. A rapid-fire story of world events, naval, social and political, a perfect mine of delightful anecdote, shrewd comment, startling personal opinions of important people and affairs. Illustrated. 2 Vols. 8vo. Net, \$8.00

By Joseph Cummings Chase SOLDIERS ALL

Portraits and Sketches of the Men of the A. E. F.
The famous Chase portraits made in France. An absolutely unique record of America's War Heroes. 12 portraits in full color and 125 in black and white, biographies, signatures, and an introduction by the artist. 4to. Net, \$7.50

By Admiral Sir Percy Scott FIFTY YEARS IN THE ROYAL NAVY

A delightfully matter-of-fact story of a picturesque naval career, alive with the romance of British history on the sea. Tells of Sir Percy's long fight for the gunnery reform that saved the English Navy at Jutland. "No one who seeks any understanding of naval conditions can afford to miss it."—Providence Journal. Net, \$6.00

By Admiral Sir Reginald Bacon THE DOVER PATROL: 1914-1917

The heretofore secret story of how a tiny section of the British Navy guarded the English coast and kept the Channel safe for food and troop transportation. Described in delightful style—of intense interest to general reader and naval expert. Illustrated. 2 Vols. Net, \$10.00

By William E. Barton THE SOUL OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

An intimate historical study of the evolution of the spiritual life of Lincoln, in no way controversial, but the result of original and thorough investigation. Contains important material never before published. For Sale at All Bookshops Net, \$4.00